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Reagan shot by assassin; 'stable' after surgery at GW

President wounded near hotel

by Terri Sorensen
News Editor

President Ronald Reagan was shot and wounded in the chest at approximately 2:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon in an assassination attempt outside of the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Reagan was immediately taken to GW Hospital, where he underwent surgery to remove a bullet from his left lung. Hospital officials said Reagan is currently in "good to excellent condition."

In addition, Press Secretary James Brady, who was with the President, was shot once in the head and is currently in critical condition on a life-support system at the GW Hospital.

Two others with Reagan were also wounded; Timothy J. McCarthy, a Secret Service agent, was shot once through the chest and liver and is in stable condition, and Thomas K. Delahanty, a D.C. police officer, was hit once through the neck and shoulder and is in critical condition.

D.C. police arrested a suspect immediately after the shooting and charged him with the attempted assassination of the President and assault with intent to kill a police officer. The Secret Service identified him as John Warnock Hinckley, Jr., 25, of Evergreen, Colo.

Witnesses at the shooting scene said six shots were fired as the President walked

(See SHOOTING, p. 4)

Also contributing to this story were Jean Alvino and Margie S. Chapin.



photo by Todd Hawley

GW students, press officials and passersby flock to the emergency entrance of the GW Hospital shortly after the arrival of wounded President Reagan. Press Secretary James Brady and Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy. An unidentified D.C. Police escort and Secret Service agent direct crowds away from the presidential limousine that rushed Reagan from the scene of the shooting.

Doctors remove .22 bullet

by Tom Precious and Rich Zahradnik
Hatchet Staff Writers

President Ronald Reagan, wounded by an assailant's gunshot, was sped yesterday to GW Hospital where he underwent nearly three hours of emergency surgery to remove a .22 caliber bullet lodged in his left lung.

Reagan arrived at the hospital at 2:30 p.m. and was greeted by a 10-member trauma team headed by Dr. Joseph Giordano, according to Dr. Dennis O'Leary, dean for clinical affairs at the GW Hospital.

Following the President into the hospital was White House Press Secretary James Brady, who was shot in the head, and Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy, who was hit once in the chest.

After 45 minutes of tests, the President was rushed into surgery performed by Dr. Benjamin Aaron, a GW cardiovascular thoracic surgeon, and Giordano, O'Leary said during a press briefing Monday evening.

The surgeons removed a single bullet that "traversed about three inches of the chest wall and then ricocheted off the seventh rib into the left lower lobe of the lung and moved about three inches into the lung substance itself," he said.

O'Leary called the operation, which involved a test for bleeding in the abdomen and removal of the bullet, "a relatively simple procedure."

While the bullet entered several inches from Reagan's heart, he said, the President "was never in any serious danger." He did, (See SURGERY, p. 3)

Inside...

Atmosphere tense inside and outside Hospital

Students recall eyewitness accounts

Reagan's surgery: info from a doctor on the scene

How the media descended on GW

Students speak on assassination attempt

Shooting spurs quick action at GW

by Margie S. Chapin
Mark Wolff and Rich Zahradnik
Hatchet Staff Writers

GW security, members of the University Physical Plant, housekeeping staffs and the Saga Food Corporation all had to spring into action yesterday when wounded President Ronald Reagan was brought to GW Hospital.

Members of the Safety and Security force were charged with checking press credentials at the make-shift briefing room set up in a lecture hall in Ross Hall.

Security cleared students out of Room 101 in that building to make room for the huge press corps they sat in vigil while Reagan, Press Secretary James Brady and Secret Service Agent Timothy McCarthy underwent surgery across the street in the hospital.

The GW Physical Plant workers brought in electrical equipment for the banks of radio and television equipment set up in the briefing room and tore out a row of seats in the classroom to make room for television cameras.

Saga mobilized to supply food to the more than 100 media people that remained in the Medical School lecture hall for more than five hours yesterday.

According to Richard Ellis, a staff member of the GW Medical Center public relations office, his office was told soon after the President (See LOGISTICS, p. 4)



photo by Todd Hawley

GW Dean for Clinical Affairs Dr. Dennis O'Leary describes President Reagan's wounds as part of GW Hospital's quick response to the emergency.

Airtight security made wet wait for bystanders

by Larry Levine
and Charles Dervarics

Hatchet Staff Writers

As President Reagan underwent surgery yesterday at GW Hospital, students, reporters and passers-by stood outside in pouring rain anxiously awaiting word of the President's condition while those inside tried to maintain order in the midst of confusion.

Security in and around GW Hospital was airtight. Motorcycle policemen, as of late last night, were stationed at every intersection along Pennsylvania Ave. between GW Hospital and the White House. A band of guards were stationed outside the hospital building shortly after the President arrived.

Inside, several employees stood guard in the hospital and did not let anyone pass without proper identification. Visitors were not allowed in, and those entering the hospital for medical reasons were allowed in only after close scrutiny; even then the people were escorted to their destination. There were numerous reports of hospital employees who had trouble getting into the building.

Security thickened even more near the emergency room entrance on the 1st floor where the President was being operated on.

Medical Center employees were lost in the confusion. "The whole

Center is in chaos," one doctor said. "It's amazing we're all holding up as well as we are," one nurse said to another.

Outside, a steady rain turned the large crowd that had gathered into a sea of umbrellas, pens and soggy notepads.

Students, news media and local residents gathered outside the hospital's main entrance on Washington Circle almost as soon as the President's limousine and police arrived.

D.C. Metropolitan Police Department cruisers and U.S. Park Service Police motorcycles that were escorting the President drove over barriers on the Circle as they raced to the hospital, according to Joe Howell, a GW sophomore who lives on Washington Circle.

"I heard sirens and thought it was a traffic accident," said Tom Dunegan, Howell's roommate, but he realized it was more serious when he saw the presidential flag flying from the front fender of the long black limousine parked in front of the hospital.

Soon after, top White House aides Edwin Meese III, James Baker and Mike Deaver filed into the hospital, ignoring the large crowds of reporters gathered behind police barricades.

Their faces registered no emotion as they walked past the bullet-marred presidential



photo by Richard Ellis
limousine, the right rear window clearly marked from one of the shots.

The first piece of concrete information came soon after when Nofziger came out to address the crowd.

"Oh my God," gasped several in the crowd when Nofziger, his tie undone and jacket open, stood in the rain and officially announced for the first time that the President had been shot.

"I'm a little dumbfounded," said Tom Fortenberry, a business executive at the Watergate Office Complex, "I'm just trying to figure out what happened."

Concerned people listen to the latest news reports on President Reagan's condition (above) as they stand outside the grounds of GW Hospital yesterday. Meanwhile, another upset person leans against a tree as the grim reality of the Presidential assassination attempt sinks in.



photo by Chris Smith

Network, print media descend on GW campus

by Tom Precious
Mark Wolff
and Rich Zahradnik

Hatchet Staff Writers

Ross Hall may be unsurpassed as a platform from which medical minds impart their knowledge to aspiring physicians, but when used as a gathering place for several hundred rain-soaked, news-starved journalists fighting deadline pressure, problems develop.

Injured by an assassin's bullet yesterday, President Ronald Reagan was rushed to GW Hospital for emergency surgery with the press in hot pursuit. Shortly after Reagan entered the hospital, members of the print and broadcast media were ushered into Room 101 of Ross Hall to await news on the conditions of the President, White House Press Secretary James Brady and Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy.

Immediately a ruckus ensued. Sam Donaldson, ABC White House correspondent, became boisterous when he could not get his camera crew into the briefing room.

According to a GW security guard, a group of students was still in the room and could not get out because of the large crowd of reporters outside the room.

Donaldson began issuing orders, the security guard said, and then told his cameraman to "roll those cameras - roll those cameras!" in an apparent attempt to film the people obstructing him.

In a few minutes, the students were cleared out of the room and the reporters streamed in with their cameras, lights and wires.

According to Byron Matthai,

director of GW Safety and Security, there was never really a problem between Donaldson and security.

"He was just trying to rush his people in and we were trying to make sure they were properly credentialed," he said.

All the particulars of the journalism trade were evident as the reporters worked out of Room 101: Ten to 15 newsmen were always crowded around the television, listening for the latest bulletins. Reporters could be heard asking about a small detail they missed or the spelling of a name.

Rumors, often spurred by television reports, spread through the room during the evening.

For example, one reporter heard over the telephone that Senator Howard Baker's office had announced Brady had died. Soon the networks were carrying the story and CBS Anchorman Dan Rather asked for a moment of silence in honor of Brady.

Finally, the White House had to have a spokesman announce Brady was still alive to end the false reports.

As the day progressed and more reporters flocked into the briefing room, competition for the few available telephones became intense.

Jim Rousmaniere, a reporter for the Baltimore Sun, said he "scoured" Ross Hall and the surrounding campus area for available payphones.

"The secret to this game is to carry a pocket full of change," he added.

Another Baltimore Sun reporter, Curt Matthews, used a reporter's ingenuity. "I quickly became friends with two young

ladies on the second floor (of Ross Hall) who let me use their phone."

Getting an important news source to the podium became all. Often, several reporters would be seen interviewing a source somewhere in the room. Soon a crowd would gather and just about all the reporters in the room would want to hear the news scraps of information.

Shouts of "move to the podium!" would drown out the sources' response, eliminating any chance for a scoop. Acceding to the demands of the rowdy press corps, the news source would be forced to move to share his information with everyone.

In the end, they left as fast as they came. Two hours after the last briefing, all the cameras and wiring were gone from the lecture room. A few stragglers stared blankly at their notes. On Washington Circle, each network had a camera crew sitting vigil over the hospital. Just waiting.



photo by Todd Hawley

ABC correspondent Sam Donaldson broadcasts from the temporary press quarters in Ross Hall. Hundreds of media personnel swarmed to GW in the shooting's aftermath to provide national and international coverage.

Student publications, radio station rally to deliver news to University

Campus media organizations flocked immediately to the scene of the action yesterday and provided some of the quickest and most thorough coverage ever of a GW news event.

WRGW, the campus radio station, stayed on the scene throughout the day before it stopped broadcasting at midnight.

The radio station was besieged by calls from stations all over the country. "Stations were calling us like mad even before the networks set up. We had 20-30 calls every five minutes," said station manager Jim Sandes. WRGW fed other stations across the country, including one as far away as Sacramento.

The station also allowed a CBS correspondent,

who could not find an open phone, to read his notes to a worker at WRGW from the University's centrex line. These notes were then phoned from the WRGW station to the CBS files.

The GW Medical School newspaper *Prognosis* had editors stationed during the day tracking down information for their special edition set to come out tomorrow.

And, with four reporters and two photographers in the press area and several outside the hospital, the *GW Hatchet* interviewed media figures, students and Medical Center personnel, working tirelessly to bring this special edition to the GW campus.

President Reagan operated on at GW Hospital

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however, lose two and one-half quarts of blood.

Reagan may be confined to the hospital for another two weeks, the GW dean told reporters, but his prognosis for recovery is considered "excellent." He added that it was doubtful there would be any complications and emphasized Reagan "is physiologically very young and in good shape."

Reagan's wounds were the least severe of the three brought from the Hilton shooting to GW Hospital. Brady this morning was listed in critical condition in the intensive care unit following five hours of brain surgery last night conducted by Dr. Arthur Koblinski, a GW neurosurgeon.

O'Leary said Brady's injuries were likely to result in permanent brain damage. "The bullet did pass through his brain and came out the other side."

McCarthy, the injured secret service agent, was placed in the intensive care unit after an operation to remove the bullet that passed through his liver and lodged against a rib, according to O'Leary, who said McCarthy was "doing extremely well."

Additional information on Brady's condition was provided by Wallace Simpson, a Mutual Broadcasting System reporter who was in the hospital when the injured press secretary was being X-rayed.

Simpson said an intern told him the bullet did extensive damage and the prognosis was not good. He said he saw Brady being wheeled out of the X-ray room and the only sign of life visible was the strong heartbeat on the EKG unit connected to Brady.

Simpson told reporters in the briefing room that the intern who saw Brady's skull X-ray said, "The pictures did not look good - there was too much damage to the cranium and brain area."

A testament to Reagan's strength was his ability to walk into the hospital on his own power. But his wound had weakened him by the time he got into the emergency room, according to Pete Gianas, a third-year GW medical student.

Gianas was standing at the emergency room entrance when the President arrived. "His knees buckled and he fell on to me," the student said.

He then aided Secret Service agents in carrying the wounded President into the examination room. Gianas helped prepare the President for examination and drew blood for tests.

"Everything happened so fast," Gianas said. "It wasn't until later that I realized what happened."

Two other medical students were also present in

the emergency room when Reagan was brought in and treated.

"I was just a concerned observer," said H. Craig Harmon, a third-year medical student.

Nancy Reagan was present in the emergency room while the hospital staff members were working on the President, and he said she "looked stressed, tired and rundown."

Frank Richards, another third-year medical student, described the atmosphere as "hectic but orderly" as the 10 members of the trauma team worked on the President.

Richards, who got a pillow for the President, spent most of his time aiding the doctors attending to Brady.

The work done in the large examination room divided by curtains was "typical for a triple shooting," he explained.

He described Reagan as being "very much awake, alert and did not appear to be in pain."

During the ordeal, the President remained in good spirits, cracking jokes to friends, aides and family, according to Lyn Nofziger, special assistant to the president.

Nofziger said Reagan joked to his wife, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

And "when he got into the operating room," the advisor said, "he looked at the doctors and said 'Please tell me you're Republicans.'"

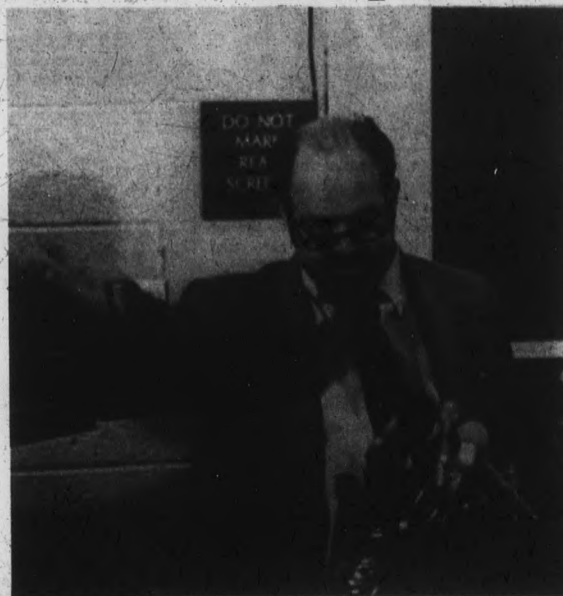


photo by Mike Mortiere



photo by Todd Hawley

Lyn Nofziger, the special assistant to President Reagan (above), addresses the large press corps gathered in a make-shift press room in a Ross Hall lecture room. Top presidential aides including Nofziger, Edwin Meese III, counselor to the President, and James Baker, White House chief of staff, (below) rush to the President's side after his arrival at the hospital.

Witnesses describe nightmare at hospital

by Pat Gilbert and Jean Alvino

Hatchet Staff Writers

Following the assassination attempt on President Reagan, security tightened at GW Hospital, but several eyewitnesses were able to describe the events that transpired inside the building.

The tension-filled sequence of events began when Keith Shapiro, a GW junior in the emergency room being treated for a leg injury, heard an announcement over the hospital's intercom stating the Presidential motorcade was on its way to the hospital.

Shapiro described the scene inside as confusing. "The whole hospital was shocked. Nobody knew what was happening; they had no idea the President was shot."

"Patients were turned away from the emergency waiting room and those inside who

could walk were told to leave," said Shapiro, who said he remained seated in a wheelchair while awaiting crutches.

Other witnesses, however, were pushed aside by secret service men. Willis King, a visitor to the hospital, said he saw the President's limousine arrive and Reagan enter, aided by a man to his right. King said the President clutched his left side under his arm and had blood on his shirt.

Another eyewitness, GW freshman Bob Guarasci, who ducked into a side entrance, said he watched Press Secretary James Brady be wheeled in face down on a stretcher, followed by Secret Serviceman Timothy J. McCarthy.

Shapiro said McCarthy "was laying on his side and not moving much."

Nancy Reagan arrived 10 minutes after the President, said Shapiro. "Nancy was very upset when she first came in, but after talking to the

President she looked reassured. She was calmer and was not crying."

An anonymous hospital employee who was close to the President said, "Reagan was very concerned about Mr. Brady, more concerned about Brady's condition than about his own."

Brady's wife, the employee said, was very composed when she arrived, but, according to Mutual Broadcasting System reporter Ross Simpson, she began to cry when briefed by doctors on her husband's condition."

As attendants wheeled the Press Secretary into surgery, Guarasci said, "He had a tremendous bulge above the right eye, purplish, and was unmistakably unconscious. There were streaks of blood on his face."

Last reports said Brady's condition is improving, but a possibility of brain damage remains.

The GW Hatchet Special Edition

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Routine 'trauma team' operation turns into surgery on President

by Brett Berri
and Chris Morales

Hatchet Staff Writers

After yesterday afternoon's assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in front of the Washington Hilton, Reagan and Press Secretary James Brady were rushed immediately to GW Hospital.

But physicians who were called to this emergency were told only that it was a "routine trauma team call." It was not until Reagan was wheeled into the operating room that the doctors realized they were to perform exploratory surgery on the President of the United States.

According to Dr. George A. Morales, anesthesiologist for the case, Reagan complained of being short of breath prior to the operation. Just before being anesthetized, Reagan appeared to

start feeling the pain of his chest wound.

After the operation, Morales said that "as a whole, he's a very healthy person. He was very stable throughout the whole process. At the end of the procedure, he was awake and aware."

Morales said Reagan should recuperate soon. "If he doesn't develop any complications, he'll be all right."

Contrary to media reports in which Reagan asked the doctors to, "Please tell me you're Republicans," Morales said the President said no such thing.

His final response before the operation, according to Morales, was "How can you put me to sleep if I can't even breathe?"

White House Press Aide Robin Grey said he could not verify whether Reagan had made the remark, but did say that he knew "the President was making several jokes."

On campus

Students express shock, dismay

by Will Dunham

Managing Editor

GW students yesterday expressed shock and dismay at the news of the stunning assassination attempt of President Reagan outside the nearby Washington Hilton Hotel.

The students, in a random sampling last night, also said the national media exposure given to the University because of the President's surgery at the GW Hospital may help "put GW on the map." In addition, the incident, students say, may bring greater awareness of the plight of gun control laws.

Laura Holmes, a freshman, said, "I was shocked and I was upset; I felt a sense of unreality. I couldn't believe something like that could happen."

Another freshman, Elizabeth Bernard, expressed similar sentiments. "I didn't really believe it - I thought it was a rumour." She added that many students contrasting political philosophies from the President were "overshadowed" by the incident.

Senior Fran Blokman concurred with Bernard. "I didn't vote for him and I don't particularly care for his policies, but I certainly hate what happened," she added.

Blokman also said the media accounts of the situation were muddled on campus. "I kept hearing different accounts of the story. I heard everything from 'he had a scratch' to 'he was dead,'" she commented.

GW groups accommodate media

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arrived at GW Hospital that White House staff would be handling all inquiries.

"Everytime you would hang up the phone" in the public relations office, he said, "it would ring immediately."

The office heard from cities across the nation and from as far away as Australia, he added.

GW security had few problems in its assignment to keep all but members of the press out of the briefing room set up in Ross Hall, according to Byron Matthai, director of safety and security.

"The only major problem we had in here (the briefing room)," he said, "was when the students rushed in with the press and we had to eject some of them."

Overall, the students were very cooperative, he added.

Matthai explained he headed over to Ross Hall when he heard the press would be located there. Although there was no official request for security, he said he called in security guards to take control of the situation.

It was "one of those deals when you had to act on the moment," he said.

Ten extra security guards were on duty at the height of yesterday's excitement. Matthai said, however, the overtime would not adversely affect security's budget.

Accommodating the several hundred reporters and broadcasters who were herded into Ross Hall proved a difficult but successful task for the GW Physical Plant Department.

"We've had floods, hurricanes, but nothing like this," said Robert Burch, director of GW Physical Plant. "I can't think of any similar situation requiring so many people performing this type of work so quickly."

Burch said preparing the lecture auditorium for the media onslaught required the overtime services of three electricians, two carpenters, two plumbers and five housekeepers from Physical Plant, 10 workmen from C&P Telephone Company and several electricians not employed by GW.

Burch received word that the press was gathering at Ross Hall from GW Hospital 20 minutes before their actual arrival at about 4:00 p.m. yesterday, enough time to enlist the GW employees for overtime duty before they left for the day.

Electricians were faced with insufficient electrical output to run the floodlights, television cameras and radio equipment set up in Room 101. They responded by hooking up three separate 20-amp lines from another section of Ross Hall. The process took 45 minutes, and "no major problems were encountered," according to Oscar Bathea, a GW electrician.

An effort by C&P Telephone workmen to connect about 30 phones for use by the press was halted because Ross Hall was not equipped with enough telephone cable.

Harrell said installation of the 30 phones required splicing into cables buried underneath 23rd Street outside Ross Hall, a project that would not have been completed "until about midnight."

As a result, many reporters were sent scurrying through Ross Hall and around the GW campus in search of working telephones.

Burch said Ross Hall sustained little physical damage yesterday. Some ceiling tiles were loosened by television camera cables, and a row of chairs was bent when removed by carpenters to provide space for the media.

He said Physical Plant "will eat" employee overtime and repair costs, but added enough funds were allocated in the budget to handle the emergency. "It's early in the fiscal year; savings we experienced in other areas such as snow removal will compensate for tonight's costs."

GW Housekeeping personnel, who who were called over from the dormitories, worked until midnight cleaning up after the press, Burch said.

Outside Ross Hall, precautionary measures were taken as GW security guards, fearing a possible collapse of the area above the Foggy Bottom

The University will benefit from the substantial coverage given to its hospital because of the near assassination, some students say. Wayne Johnson, a sophomore, said, "The coverage put the University on the map, so to speak. I think the University should try to use this in our best interests."

Michele DiPippo, another sophomore, said media coverage was helpful "except by ABC when they called us Georgetown University." She added the exposure should help GW "especially now that people are applying to colleges." Holmes added, "From what I've seen on TV, I was impressed with GW hospital. I didn't see anything that would bring disrespect to the school."

Gun control laws may be more of a concern to the Reagan administration in the aftermath of the incident, students said. Junior Nancy Plakin said the trauma may spur Reagan to adopt at least moderate gun control laws. "It will have some effect on him," she said.

Some students said they believed the near assassin had no political motives. "There was some sicko out there trying to fulfill that 20 year jinx," DiPippo commented.

But freshman Robert Allen concluded, "I was quite shocked. But after a while, I think the media was changing the whole thing into a movie ... Reagan's the star of the show again - like all his movies."

Metro station, ordered the removal of the heavier network trucks parked on the concrete over the Metro station.

Roberta Schaffner, Saga, Inc. food service director at GW, was instrumental in supplying the press with food and drinks. Saga sponsored the first break held at around 5:30 pm. The food, according to Schaffner, "came from the first floor cafeteria. There was enough food for 300 people, and it was put together in about 20 minutes."

The GW Medical Center public relations office provided about 100 sandwiches and Saga sent over more coldcuts for a second press break. Saga and the Medical Center are expected to absorb the cost of feeding the press.

Michael Pfister, a Saga worker, estimated the cost of the food would come to \$1,200.

All in all, GW staff members said they felt they did a good job during yesterday afternoon's crisis.

Said Security Director Matthai, "We worked very closely with the White House staff members and they were very cooperative with us."

And the White House gave GW high marks for its efforts.

"GW Hospital did an excellent job," said Dan Morris, a staff assistant to the president, adding that the GW staff was "unbelievably cooperative."

Also contributing to this story was Tom Precious.

Presidential shootings not new to D.C.

Of the nearly 20 attempted Presidential assassinations since the office was created, only four, including the attempt on Ronald Reagan, took place while the Presidents were in Washington, D.C. The first successful attempt occurred on April 14, 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was shot as he sat watching a play in Ford's Theatre on Tenth St. N.W. Lincoln was carried to a neighboring house, and never regaining consciousness, died the next morning.

President James Garfield was embroiled in a national controversy over the use of the "spoils system" as a method for filling government posts when he was assassinated on July 2, 1881 by Charles Jules Guiteau. Guiteau, a lawyer, was seeking

revenge because he had not been given a government job. Garfield was shot as he waited for a train at a local station.

Before the attack on Reagan, the most recent D.C. assassination attempt was the one on President Harry S. Truman while he was holding a meeting in Blair House on November 1, 1950. Two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to invade Blair House to kill the President. Truman escaped without harm, but one Secret Service official was killed and another wounded.

Later, Truman commented, "A President has to expect those things."

-Darlene Siska

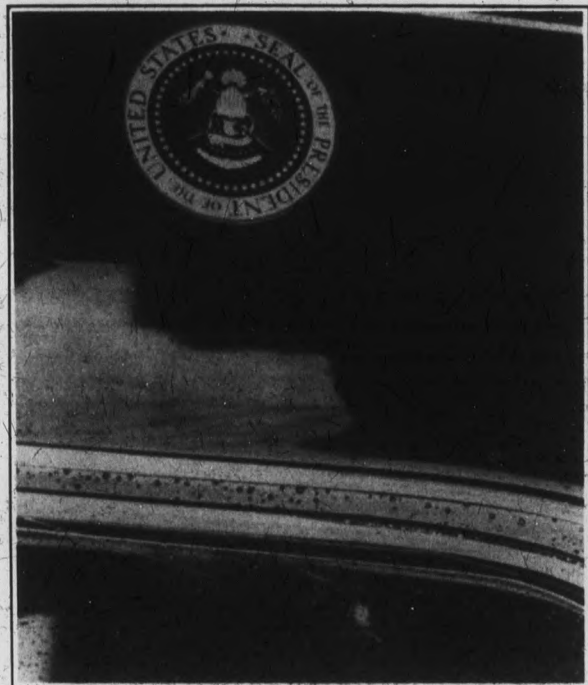


photo by Todd Hawley

Two bullet holes in the presidential limousine, including the one pictured in the window above, were remnants of the shooting scene outside the Hilton Hotel. Officials say six shots were fired.

Reagan shot in chest

SHOOTING, from p.1

from the hotel to his limousine, striking Brady, Delahanty and McCarthy and scattering the rest of Reagan's entourage. The president at first only appeared to be startled, not hurt.

A Secret Service agent quickly shoved Reagan into his waiting limousine as several other agents and D.C. police fell upon the suspected assailant approximately 10 feet away.

Brady, who witnesses said appeared to have taken the first bullet, fell to the ground face first, bleeding from a head wound, where he lay for several minutes. He was then rushed by ambulance to GW.

The two security agents were also struck by the assailant's bullets; Delahanty was taken to Washington Hospital Center and McCarthy to GW.

Early reports from the White House confirmed that Reagan was not harmed; however, not until approximately an hour after the shooting did Lyn Nofziger, a special assistant to the president, announce that Reagan had taken a bullet in the chest.

The shots appeared to have been fired from a roped-off press area, where, according to a CBS correspondent on the scene, it is a common practice for sightseers and passersby to stand and security is not usually tight.

The President's limousine was also struck by bullets in the right door and window before it pulled away.

The weapon recovered at the scene was a Harrington-Richardson .22-caliber revolver, which was turned over to the FBI.

Hinckley had been tackled by agents after the shots were fired, and he was later turned over to the FBI after questioning by D.C. police.

Hinckley, a native of Texas, had been arrested last October in Nashville for possession of three guns on the same day that former President Jimmy Carter appeared at the Grand Ole Opry there. Local authorities said they had forwarded the arrest record to the FBI, but the agency said they have no record of Hinckley's arrest.

Brady, about whom a White House press aid said, "It doesn't look good," has been Reagan's press secretary since Jan. 6. He came to the administration after working with John Connally's presidential campaign.

Delahanty, 45, was reported by D.C. Mayor Marion Barry to be the first officer to rush to Hinckley after the shooting. He is a veteran of 17 years on the metropolitan force and has received more than 30 service awards. McCarthy, 32, joined the Secret Service in Chicago before joining the Washington bureau.